CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2419
Mount Alto
1901 Alto Vista Avenue
Woodlawn, Baltimore County
ca. 1850
Private

Mount Alto, located at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue, is a mid-nineteenth-century Italianate dwelling set in the middle of a mid-twentieth-century suburb of Baltimore City. The family of Paul Rust initially occupied the dwelling, constructed while John Dorsey owned the property. The building does not appear to have acquired the name Mount Alto until the mid- to late-nineteenth-century phase of alterations that included the construction of a Colonial Revival style porch, and the addition of wood shingle cladding to the dwelling's exterior. These changes were undertaken during the thirty-three years that William Goss owned and resided in the dwelling. The property and surrounding community have undergone significant changes since the early twentieth century. In addition to the significant exterior alterations that change the overall feeling of the Italianate dwelling, the surrounding acreage has been subdivided and developed. Only little more than one-and-a-half acres of the historic forty-nine remains part of the property.

Constructed circa 1850, the gable-front and wing Italianate style dwelling known as Mount Alto is located at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue. Clad in wood shingles, the two-story dwelling is dominated by a three-story Italianate style tower that rises from the main block at the juncture of the wing. The dwelling sits on solid stone foundation and is crowned by an asphalt shingle roof with a wrap-around one-story porch. The roof and tower are accented with a molded wood boxed cornice and bracketed eaves. A central interior brick chimney rises from the wing of the main block and an interior end brick chimney is located on the main block. It features a corbeled, double-hood cap. The property, located just outside the Baltimore City limits, sits on a wooded rise above a suburban neighborhood and functions as apartments. An historic shed and icehouse, and a non-historic garage support the property, which is accessed by a circular gravel drive.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of F	Property	(indicate preferred n	ame)					
historic	Mount Alto							
other								***
2. Location								
street and number	1901 Alto Vist	a Avenue					not for	publication
city, town	Woodlawn						_ vicinity	
county	Baltimore Cour	nty						
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	address	es of al	l owners			***************************************
name	Providence Pro	perties LLC						-
street and number	2875 Troyer Ro	oad				telephone	Not Liste	ed
city, town	White Hall		state	Mary	land	zip code	2116-932	21
Contril Contril Determ Record	buting Resource buting Resource nined Eligible for nined Ineligible fo ded by HABS/HA c Structure Repo	rt or Research Report at MHT	nd Regis and Reg			3		
6. Classifica								
Category district X_building(s) structure siteobject	Ownership —public _X_privateboth	government —_health care	red	ligion cial insporta ork in pro known cant/no	/culture ation ogress		ng Nor	ncontributing building sites structure objects L Total ting Resources the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2419

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
X	_ good	ruins
	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1850, the gable-front and wing Italianate style dwelling, known as Mount Alto, is located at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue. Clad in wood shingles, the two-story dwelling is dominated by a three-story Italianate style tower that rises from the main block at the juncture of the wing. The dwelling sits on solid stone foundation and is crowned by an asphalt shingle roof with wrap-around one-story porch. The roof and tower are accented with a molded wood boxed cornice and bracketed eaves. A central interior brick chimney rises from the wing of the main block and an interior end brick chimney is located on the main block. It features a corbeled, double hood cap. The property, located just outside the Baltimore City limits, sits on a wooded rise above a suburban neighborhood and functions as apartments. An historic shed and icehouse and a non-historic garage support the property, which is accessed by a circular gravel drive.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade, facing west, is composed of a gable front and wing main block clad in wood shingles. The gabled portion, which projects to the west, measures two bays wide across the first story with an additional bay with a single-leaf entry projecting forward from the tower, forming a flush wall plane with the gabled portion. The twenty-light wood door displays a three-light transom and molded wood surround with splayed molded wood cap. The first and second stories of the gabled elevation are pierced with symmetrically placed 2/2 wood elongated windows with added muntins, which appear as 4/4 windows. Each displays square-edged wood surrounds and sills and louvered and paneled wood operable shutters. A Colonial Revival style one-story wrap-around porch supported by Tuscan wood columns and a wide molded fascia dominates the elevation. In addition, the façade displays overhanging eaves, a molded, boxed wood cornice and scroll-sawn Italianate brackets. The wing, which is set back from the façade, also measures two bays wide. The second story is pierced with two symmetrically placed 2/2 wood elongated windows with added muntins, which appear as 4/4 windows. The first floor is similarly fenestrated, but displays only one window and a single-leaf fifteen-light door with three-light transom and square-edged wood surround. All of the windows have operable louvered and paneled shutters. The wing also displays overhanging eaves, a boxed wood cornice and supporting scroll-sawn brackets. A small poured concrete slab porch projects to the west. At the juncture of the gable front and wing, a three-story Italianate style tower rises to dominate the building. The second story is pierced with a pair of 2/2 wood windows with added muntins, which appear as 4/4 windows. The windows have wood louvered operable shutters. A molded wood belt course wraps around the tower, defining the third story. It is pierced with a pair of arched 4/4 windows with arched molded surrounds and square-edged sills. A pyramidal standing-seam metal roof with a finial caps the tower, which also displays a wide overhanging eaves, a boxed wood cornice and scroll-sawn corner brackets. All four elevations of the second story of the tower are identically fenestrated. Additionally, the tower presents windows similar to those on the second floor of the tower on the south side.

The south elevation is composed of the two-story gable end of the wing and a one-and-a-half story ell addition. The wing measures two bays wide. The first floor is marked by an off-center single-leaf entry with nine-light and single-paneled door and molded wood surround. The story also displays a 6/1 wood window and a pair of three-light casement windows. A shed roof porch with wood post supports and a concrete deck shelter the first story. Both windows have molded wood surrounds and square-edged sills. The 6/1 window also has louvered and paneled shutters. The two upper story windows are evenly spaced and placed just below the overhanging eaves. The windows are 6/1 wood and have operable louvered shutters.

The east, or rear, elevation predominately consists of the ell and rear gabled end of the main block. The ell is pierced only on the first floor with a pair of 2/2 windows with added muntins to appear as 4/4 windows. The pair shares louvered

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Name Mount Alto, 1901 Alto Vista Avenue, Woodlawn, Baltimore County Continuation Sheet

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shutters and a square-edged wood surround, mullion and sill. The rear elevation of the gabled main block features a first story 2/2 window with an added muntin to appear as a 4/4 window. The window has a molded wood surround, square-edged sill, and operable wood louvered shutters. The second floor is pierced with two evenly spaced similar windows. The elevation also marked with a molded wood cornice supported by Italianate style scroll-sawn brackets. A one-story shed addition projects from the ell to the north. It is clad with an asphalt-shingled roof, wood sheathing, and has Colonial Revival style square-post Tuscan pilasters with lamb's tongue detailing. On the rear elevation, the shed addition reveals a off-center single-leaf entry with a two-light transom. The door is obscured by a metal storm door. The shed addition also is pierced with a pair of four-light fixed windows with a shared four-light transom. The windows each have a molded panel beneath them. The north side of the two-bay ell is obscured completely on the first floor by the shed addition. The window pattern is similar to the east end, but there are three fixed four-light windows with a shared six-light transom and three lower panels. Additionally, the addition reveals a 6/1 window cut into the wood shingled wall plane. The window has a molded wood surround, square-edged sill and operable louvered and paneled shutters. The second floor of the ell is lit with two similar 6/6 windows with louvered shutters.

The north elevation of the main block features a 2/2 window with an added muntin to appear as a 4/4 window with louvered and paneled shutters. It is also partially sheltered by three bays of the Colonial Revival style wrap-around porch. From the porch, the dwelling is accessed by an off-center, fifteen-light single-leaf door with a Colonial Revival molded surround and Queen Anne detailed screen door. A quarter-turn stair with a square-post newel and balustrade accesses a second floor porch. The second floor porch measures two bays wide and one bay deep. It is detailed with square wood post supports, overhanging eaves, wood cornice, a wide flush fascia, a wood shingled apron, and is capped by a half-hipped asphalt shingled roof. Beneath the shelter, the second floor displays a single-leaf flush wood door and a single-leaf wood paneled two-light door. Located outside the porch shelter, the second story also displays two 2/2 windows with added muntins to appear as 4/4 windows with louvered shutters. The elevation is also marked with decorative scroll-sawn wood brackets, which are evenly spaced beneath the overhanging eaves.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the survey. However, based on written information, the dwelling was converted to apartments in the 20th century.

OUTBUILDINGS

Constructed circa 1900, the stone icehouse sits on a random-rubble stone foundation. The side gabled structure measures one-story in height with an asphalt-shingled roof with exposed rafters and a wood shingled gable peak. A paneled single-leaf door accesses the small building, which also features hinged wood openings on the gable ends. Overgrown trees and shrubs obscure the structure.

Constructed circa 1930, the machine shed is clad in wood shingles. The building has a front-gabled asphalt-shingled roof and is set on a concrete pier foundation. It is accessed by two vertical board double-leaf doors and detailed with exposed rafters and 6/1 windows. A wood frame shed addition was added to the structure. Shrubs and overgrown trees obscure it.

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The wood frame garage, constructed circa 1970, is clad in wood shingles with an asphalt-shingled side gable with shed addition roof. The structure sits on a poured concrete foundation. The façade, facing north, is pierced with three narrow paneled roll-up vehicular doors and one wide paneled roll-up vehicular door. A flush single-leaf door also accesses the garage. All of the doors display square-edged wood surrounds. The building is also detailed with a wood cornice, which is slightly overhanging on the façade. A pyramidal roofed cupola ventilator caps the buildings.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. BA-2419
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	 economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	health/medicine industry invention landscape archited law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government trure religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	1850 ca., 1883, 1890	ca.	Architect/Builder [Unknown
Construction da	ates 1850 ca., 1890 ca.			
Evaluation for:	National Register	N	faryland Register	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Mount Alto, located at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue, is a mid-19th century Italianate dwelling set in the middle of a mid-20th century suburb of Baltimore City. The dwelling, constructed while the property was owned by John Dorsey, was initially occupied by the family of Paul Rust. The building does not appear to have acquired the name Mount Alto until the mid-to late 19th century when it was owned and occupied by Samuel Black. The property retained it's rural character through a late 19th century phase of alterations that included the construction of a Colonial Revival style porch and the addition of wood shingle cladding to the dwelling's exterior. These changes were undertaken during the thirty-three years that William Goss owned and resided in the dwelling. The property and surrounding community have undergone significant changes since the early 20th century. In addition to the significant exterior alterations that change the overall feeling of the Italianate dwelling, the surrounding acreage has been subdivided and developed. Only little more than one-and-a-half acres of the historic forty-nine acres remains part of the property.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Baltimore County has a rich milling and manufacturing history, and 19th century textile mills producing cotton and woolen goods were located in Warren, Jericho, Rockdale, and White Hall. Oella, the first textile mill in the county, was established to the east of the city of Baltimore in 1808. Jesse and Enoch Levering established the Powhatan Cotton Factory in 1809 when they and other investors funded the \$200,000 construction of a five-story mill. The factory was sited at a sharp bend in Gwynns Falls between Windsor Mill Road and Liberty Turnpike, roughly seven miles west of the city of Baltimore. Additional textile mills were located in Wetherdville, which was situated between Powhatan and Baltimore.

As early as 1827, the Franklin Turnpike Company was incorporated to effect a better passage from Baltimore to Franklin and other small towns along Gwynns Falls on the west side of the city. Construction of the circuitous road took place from 1827 until 1831, when it was finally completed. Robert Dorsey, one of the organizers of the Franklin Turnpike Company, owned land encompassing the property at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue as late as 1863. Although Dorsey was the mid-19th century owner of the property, the family of Paul Rust occupied the dwelling.³

¹ John W. McGrain, From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985), p. 3.

² William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: The Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 25.

³ J.C. Sidney, Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850), np.

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The form and ornament of the dwelling are typical of Italianate villas constructed on country estates in the middle of the 19th century. The Italianate style of architecture was greatly popularized in the mid-1800s by Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books published in the 1840s and 1850s. He advocated construction in the "Italian mode" for its ability in "...displaying a rich domestic character in its balconies, veranda, ornamental porches, [and] terraces...." Additionally, he stated that "[t]he square tower, or *campanile*, is a prominent feature in villas in this style, and frequently confers on the Italian compositions a character of great boldness and dignity." In its overall design and form, Mount Alto greatly resembles Downing's "Irregular Villa in the Italian style, bracketed." The two-story gable-front and wing form, with a three-story campanile at the intersection of these two sections, was very popular among mid-19th century enthusiasts of the Italianate style. The builder of Mount Alto was most likely influenced, whether directly or indirectly, by the works of Downing and his contemporaries.

The property remained in the Dorsey family until 1863, when Philip P. Field acquired full ownership of it. Seven years later, Field's family sold it to Franklin Wilson. The property continued to change ownership again in 1873, when it was purchased by Samuel Black. The 1877 county atlas indicates that Black also resided in the dwelling, known then as Mount Alto. At that time, the dwelling was sited at the center of the nearly square parcel of land, and a Presbyterian church was located at its southwest corner. In the late 1870s, the surrounding land was similarly laid out. These properties appear to have been developed as either country estates or as farmland with dwellings centrally located on each parcel of land. This region between the communities of Powhatan and Franklin was only sparsely developed at this time.⁶

In 1903, the Woodlawn Cemetery Corporation purchased the buildings and land of the defunct Powhatan company town for the purpose of development. In the early 20th century, the community of Franklin was partially incorporated into Baltimore's city limits and renamed Franklintown. As the city expanded and the towns on its west side became suburbs, the farmland surrounding Mount Alto was subdivided and developed. Although the forty-nine acre property retained its rural characteristics in the early 20th century, by 1915, it was bordered on the southeast by Lorraine Cemetery, on the south by Colonial Park Estate, and on the north by the small community of Woodlawn. At that time, William Goss, the property's owner since 1883, still resided in the dwelling.⁷

Architectural analysis indicates that it was during this period of occupation by the Goss family that the dwelling experienced its ornamental update to reflect the change in popular architectural styles. The Colonial Revival style wraparound porch with Tuscan columns was added to the building in the late 19th century. The wood shingles also date to this period of alterations. Wood shingles, an exterior material popular since the Shingle style emerged in the early 1880s, were commonly used as exterior cladding through the early 20th century.

In 1916, the Goss family sold Mount Alto to William Hoffmeister and C. Edward Schaumloeffel. The property again changed ownership twice in 1953, and was finally sold to Mary Zarro in that year. She retained ownership of the house

⁴ Andrew Jackson Downing, Victorian Cottage Residences (1842; reprint, New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 115.

⁵ Downing, p. 114.

⁶ Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), np.

⁷ Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), np.

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Name Mount Alto, 1901 Alto Vista Avenue, Woodlawn, Baltimore County Continuation Sheet

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until 1969. In that year, five individuals joined together to purchase the property, retaining possession until 1976, when it was purchased by Alfred L. Williamson. Williamson, who owned the property until 1997, sold it to Providence Properties. Over the last fifty years, the community of Woodlawn has grown to incorporate the land surrounding Mount Alto. During this time, the surrounding acreage was subdivided and the dwelling was converted into apartments.

Chain of Title:

Part 1:

July 4, 1827:

Edward H. Dorsey and Rebecca Dorsey, wife, to Ezekiel John Dorsey

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 185 Folio 245

January 26, 1863:

Robert Dorsey of Edward and Susan Dorsey, heirs of Ezekiel John Dorsey, to Philip P. Field

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber GHC 37 Folio 16

And:

July 23, 1859:

William Mason, trustee, and Charles C. Graffin and R. Graffin, wife, to Philip P. Field

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 27 Folio 188

October 4, 1870:

Philip P. Field to Franklin Wilson Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber EHA 68 Folio 31

Part 2:

September 29, 1866:

Paul and Catherine Rust to Philip P. Field in trust for Rosaline Field, his wife

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 51 Folio 153

October 4, 1870:

Philip P. Field and Rosaline Field to Franklin Wilson

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber EHA 68 Folio 29

Both:

July 10, 1873:

Franklin Wilson and Virginia A. Wilson to Samuel Black

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Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber EHA 81 Folio 583

September 23, 1879: Samuel Black and Margaret C. Black to Jacob Ellinger

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber JB 113 Folio 353

April 27, 1883: Mary E. Ellinger and Emmanuel Ellinger, executors of the estate of Jacob Ellinger, to William

R. Goss

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber WMJ 134 Folio 522

December 4, 1916: William R. Goss and Eliabeth A. Goss to William Hoffmeister and C. Edward Schaumloeffel

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber WPC 470 Folio 474

December 2, 1953: Mary J. Zarro and Antonio Zarro, husband, F. Althea Eichert and Bruno Eichert, husband,

C. Edward Schaumloeffel and Mary Patricia Schaumloeffel, wife, and Gladys Hix

Schaumloeffel to Beulah Bruehl Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber GLB 2400 Folio 141

December 2, 1953: Beulah Bruehl to Mary J. Zarro

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber GLB 2400 Folio 145

September 30, 1969: Mary J. Zarro to Mark G. Amuedo, Marie D. Amuedo, wife, Alfred L. Williamson, Janice C.

Williamson and James Cranston Garthune

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber OTG 5041 Folio 526

June 15, 1976: Mark G. Amuedo and Marie D. Amuedo, wife, Janice C. Williamson and James C. Garthune

to Alfred L. Williamson

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 5645 Folio 204

December 19, 1997: Alfred L. Williamson and Christine C. Roberts to Providence Properties LLC

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 12571 Folio 599

November 3, 2000 Providence Properties LLC to Alto Vista LLC

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 14731 Folio 652

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2419

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. Victorian Cottage Residences. 1842. Reprint. New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981. Hollifield, William. Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County. Cockeysville, MD: The Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

McGrain, John W. From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _	1.61 Acres	_	
Acreage of historical setting _	49 Acres	_	
Quadrangle name	Baltimore West	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Mount Alto is located at 1901 Alto Vista Avenue in the community of Woodlawn on the west side of the city of Baltimore. Since circa 1850, the dwelling has been associated with the 1.61 acres known as parcel 416 and located on grid 20, map 88 in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

11. Form Prepared by

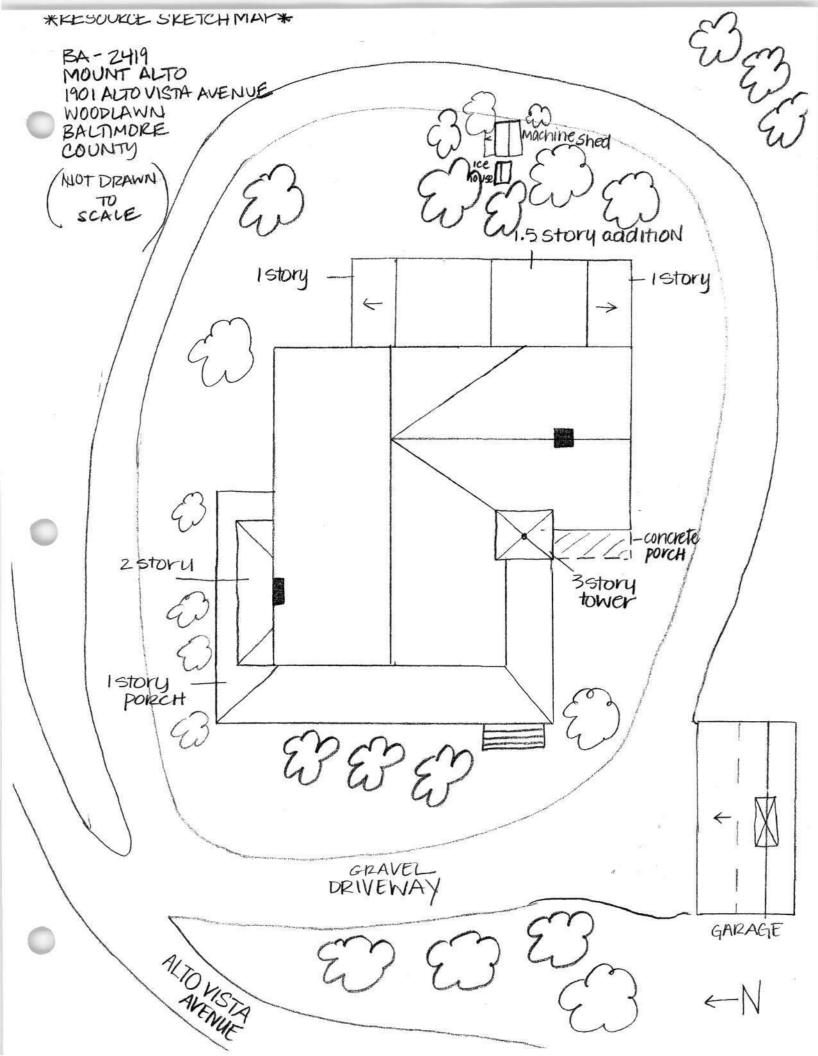
name/title	J. Bunting, A. McDonald and A.Didden, Architectural Historians			
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	February 23, 2001	
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199	
city or town	Washington	state	DC	

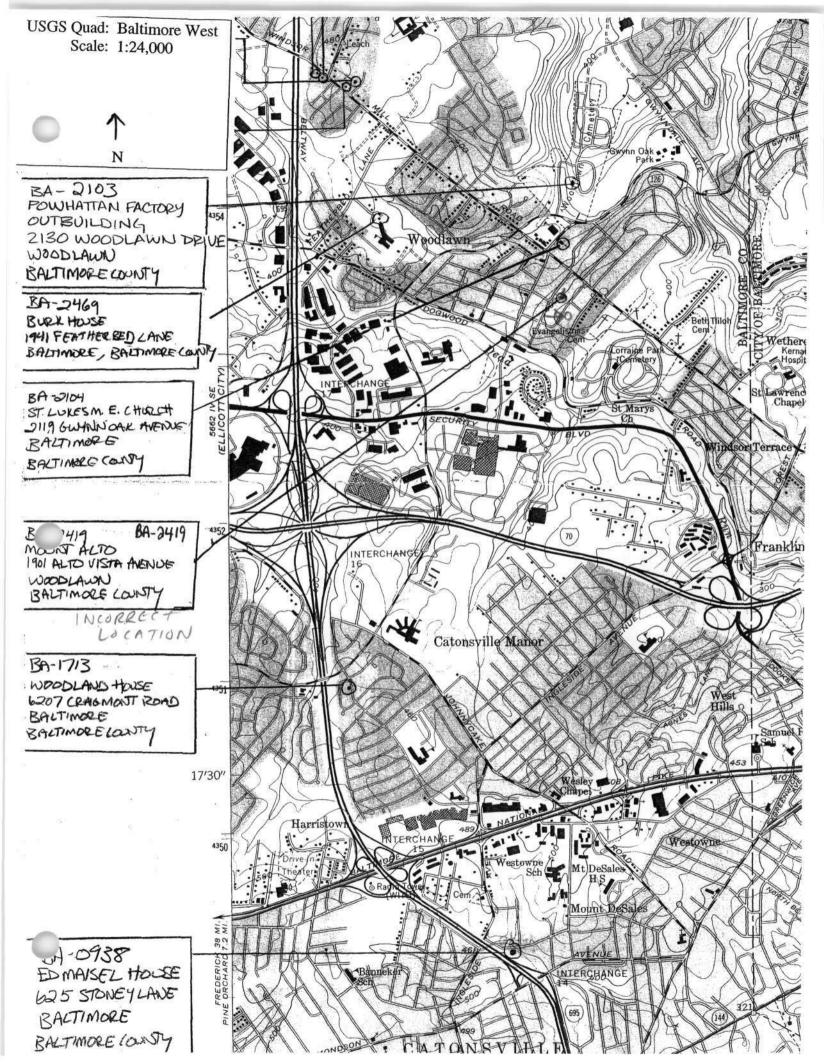
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

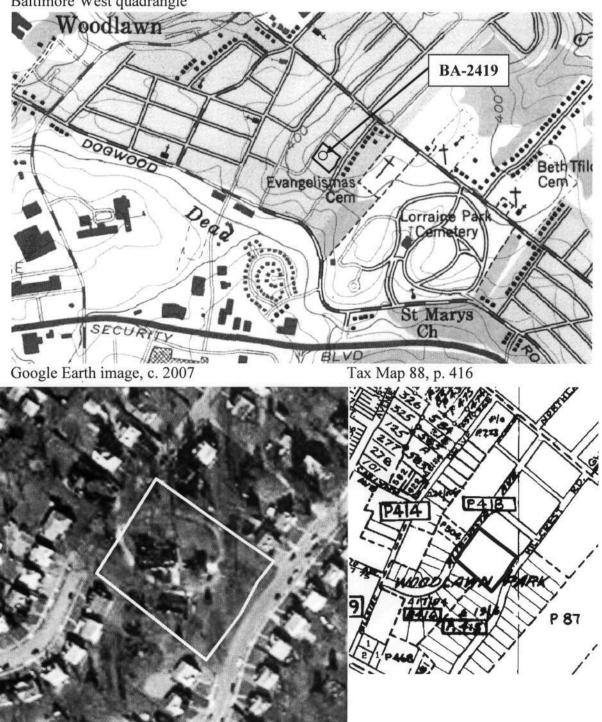
return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600





BA-2419 Mount Alto 1901 Alto Vista Avenue, Woodlawn Baltimore West quadrangle





BA 2419 Mount Alto 1901 Alto Vista Avenue Woodlawn, Baltimore County, MD

TRACETRIES 10/00 MD SHPO

Dwelling, West elevation, view looking East

of 5



Woodlawn, Baltimore county, MD

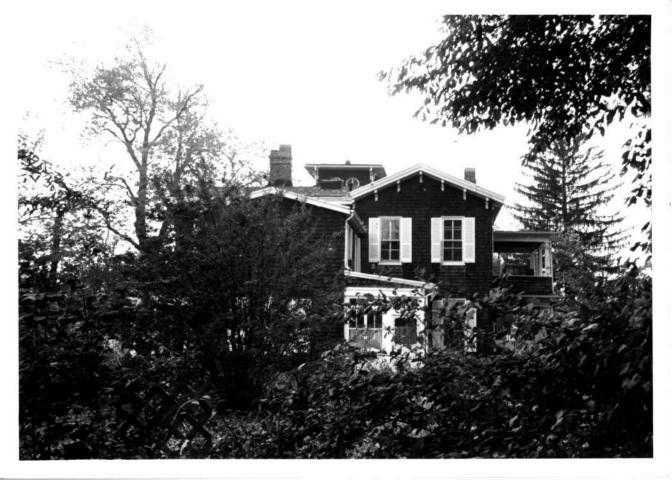
TRACERIES 10/00 MD SHPO

BA 2419

Mount alto

1901 Alto vista Avenue

Dwelling, south elevation, view looking North_



BA 2419 Mount Alto 1901 Alto vista Avenue Woodlawn, Baltimore County, MD

TRACETRIES 10/00 MD SHPO

Dwelling, East elevation, view looking West

15



woodlawn, Baltimore County, MD

TRACERIES 10/00 MD SHPO

BA 2419

Mount Alto

1901 Alto Vista Avenue

Dwelling, Noveth elevation, view looking South

40t5



BA 2419 Mount Alto 1901 Alto Vista Avenue woodlawn, Baltimore County, MD TRACEIZIES 10/00 MD SHPO garage, view looking Southwest 60(2, - MOUNT ALTO - About 1850 - 1901 Altovista Road, Woodlawn. Frame and shingled Italianate villa with square tower; various brackets. Shown on 1850 map as Paul Rust house; the 1857 Taylor map showed Paul Rust with house called Mount Airy. Shown in 1877 atlas as Samuel Black's Mount Alto. In this century adapted as an apartment house, the surrounding land subdivided as Woodlawn Park.